

IN SILK AND WOOL

The One Piece Models for the Spring Frocks.

MARCH FASHION THRILLS

The Silk Tailor Gown to Be Much Seen This Season.

Preference for the One Tone Stuffs Among the Spring Dress Materials

- Smart Mixtures of Silk and Wool
- Attractions of the Separate Coats
- The Pongee Weaves Extremely Popular—One Piece Models Suitable for Linens and Cottons and Not Too Complicated for the Home Seamstress
- Rose in Its Innumerable Shades.

March is always a month of fashion thrills, of openings and novelty laden shop counters and of workrooms where the wheels are beginning to hum after the between seasons dullness. The average woman defers her spring



FINE WHITE SERGE.

dressmaking until April and May because by that time the last word has been said upon the subject of the new modes; but by that time too the dressmakers and tailors are busy and many of the choicest materials have been picked up. Moreover, there's a satisfaction in having at least the foundation of one's spring and summer wardrobe laid before the first warm, bright days arrive, and a tailored woollen street costume really ought to be ready by the first of April.



NATURAL LINEN EMBROIDERED.

since its usefulness is greatest before mid-June and after September 1. Smart tailored models in unfinished worsted, in fine and wide wale serge, in coté in diagonals and herringbone and shadow stripes, in prunella and in various soft Scotch mixtures are now on view, one tone stuffs having the preference, though there are some delightful mixtures in very soft, lightweight homespun character which at a distance seem to be of one tone but close at hand exhibit an intermingling of shades most skillfully blended. There are more pro-



WHITE NET OVER PINK.

nounced designs of course, but for the first tailored frock a one tone effect is a wise choice. The most noticeable thing among the new materials for tailoring is the invasion of the silk and wool mixtures and the silks, which here as in other provinces



THREE SIMPLE COLLARLESS FROCKS.

of fashion are demanding recognition and deserving it.

Silk and wool bengalines in one tone bayadere stripes—a silk stripe or group of stripes on a fine wool ground—are shown in all the modish shades and are particularly good in some of the graver or beige tones and the grays. These are often matched with plain fine wool, the stripe material being used only for the coat.

Satin striped prunellas are another



BRUSSELS NET AND SOUTACHE.

effective and not too expensive silk and wool class of tailor fabrics and at a higher price one finds what the manufacturers have called a satin serge, a beautiful material extremely soft, yet firm, woven like wool serge with a fine twill, and having a satin finish. This satin serge is an admirable material for one of the one piece frock and coat models through which the tailors are now making inroads upon the dressmaker's territory, and the new silk and wool satin cloth, a

very lightweight, soft fabric with high satin lustre of surface and wool back is another material much favored for dressy costumes of this type, though according to old traditions it has not the accepted tailor air of the satin serge.

Directorio cloth, slightly heavier than satin cloth and with a lustre less pronounced, is popular with the tailors and there are many corded materials in silk and wool, all grouped under the head of coté and some of them practical for tailor costumes though others are excessively sheer. This cord idea extends into the all silk fabrics too, ranging from the all wool stuffs of Bedford cord type through the silk and wool bengalines, etc., to the all silk bengalines, the Ottomans, the failles, and the coté shantung and tussors.

Ottoman will be extensively used not only for trimming of tailored costumes, but for whole costumes as well, and indications are that we shall see a very large number of Ottoman silk



BLUE SERGE.

fracks in combination with one piece frocks of lightweight wool or plain silk stuff.

Attractive separate coats of Ottoman are being made by some of the authoritative tailors and while cut on the newest lines are as a rule severely tailored in air, though they are frequently adorned by handsome buttons and ornaments made from the silk or of a passerenterie sort. Braiding embellishes some of these Ottoman coats, but so far the most knowing models for such separate coats which we have seen were of very handsome black Ottoman relieved only by stunning buttons and fastenings.

As we have said before, all of the pongee weaves are extremely popular and they assuredly deserve the popularity. The material has amazing variety this season, and while many of the weaves are too light and soft for very practical tailored uses there are plenty of others admirably adapted for such purposes. One of the very latest and most effective things of this class is a diagonal shantung, which is offered in a long line of beautiful shades and looks like the wide diagonal serge so much in use during the winter, but with silken softness and lustre.

This material is firm enough for tailoring and has a distinct tailor air, yet is remarkably handsome and light enough in weight for summer comfort. Thanks to the fact for the one piece frock with coat, replacing the coat and skirt costume with blouse, we shall see much of the silk tailor frock this season. Any of the practical woollen stuffs is too heavy for bodice purposes, even when most of the blouse is composed of net or chiffon, and long woollen bodice sleeves are an abomination even when the coat is made sleeveless.

Of course the compromise effected is in the form of a remountant skirt joined to a bodice of embroidered or braided net or other thin stuff, the bodice material matching the skirt and coat in color. For general street wear such a suit is desirable and even the coat and skirt with separate blouse will continue to fill a felt want; but the silks such as shantung are ideal materials for the most fashionable form of summer tailor costume, and tailors and dressmakers are exploiting such costumes.

These silks are liked for coat and skirt suits with separate blouses too, and as many of the loveliest things of the kind are in coloring dark enough for practical wear any summer girl will find such an item in her wardrobe a blessing when warm days come.

One firm famous for attractive ready to wear models, high of price but beautiful and exclusive in material and design, has ready a lovely line of these pongee costumes, some of the most satisfactory models being in ash gray and the soft medium grayer tones.

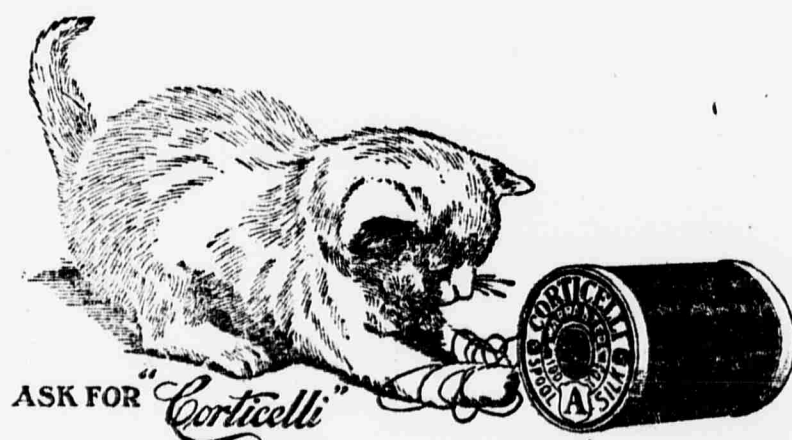
The coats are built up on the long straight lines, and while severe of line are made handsome by stunning self-color embroidery in silks or in braid. The one piece frocks accompanying the coats are similarly trimmed, and in some cases only skirt and coat are provided, a sepa-

rate blouse being required.

In another house we have seen some most satisfactory models in similar materials and colorings, but with the skirt of silk joined to a blouse of heavy net matching the skirt material in color. This blouse was embroidered all over in self-color softtache and finished round the armholes and the neck with a half inch fold of the silk.

A very shallow guimpe was of lace through which ran glinting threads of gold. The long close sleeve of this blouse emphasized the one piece character of the frock. It was of net and throughout most of its length was encircled at intervals by two inch folds of the silk, applied like tucks. The spaces between these silk folds showed two very fine tucks in the net.

Toward the bottom, at the height of a good deep cuff, the silk folds stopped and below that the net was left plain and laid over gold and cream lace like that of the guimpe. The tailored coat



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was plain save for buttons and a very little braiding. Natural colored pongee of the heavier qualities is well liked, despite the vogue of the deeper tones, and many chic imported models are in such silk with a touch of black in collar and cravat. The coats of these suits are in many models lined with satin of a soft rose or blue or green, the limit of color—though little seen—giving a bit of relief to the neutral hue of the suit.

A shantung model which several of the exclusive Fifth Avenue houses have imported is cut on lines similar to those of the blue cloth model shown among the sketches. Front and back hang almost straight and longer than the slightly fitted sides, and in the silk model, both front and back, are handsomely and heavily embroidered in self-colored silk.

Very simple one piece frocks of fine white serge with coats to match are being made up in every fashionable tailoring establishment, and linen costumes on these same lines are innumerable. For the benefit of women who want one piece models suitable for linens and cottons and not too complicated for the efforts of a home seamstress we have collected some sketches of very simple little frocks modish in spite of their simplicity.

The two little frocks of net are of course for evening wear, and were as charming as they were unpretentious. One was made more elaborate by fine soutache braiding; but as this braiding was all in flat bands it should not be beyond achievement by any intelligent seamstress, and the other girlish model offers no problem more serious than tucking and ribbon run puffs.

The linen and cotton models explain themselves. A number of them, as will be noticed, were collarless; but where this is undesirable a change can easily be made, and for youthful wearers and women whose throats are still charming even though they may have left genuine youth behind the Dutch neck is comfortable as well as chic. A host of separate lingerie collars adapted to low neck effects are shown in all the neckwear departments, and many of them are indescribably fine and dainty.

Linen frocks trimmed in bands and collar of the same linen embroidered in self-color or white are among the pretty French morning frocks, and other one piece French models in the heavy, soft linen which is now the approved weave are of string color, écoré and other neutral tones, embroidered in striking colors and Egyptian, Russian or Bulgarian designs.

Another contrasting embroidery effect most successfully handled was in a one piece frock of pongee in a delicious shade of rose embroidered in Chinese design and Chinese blues and with just a mere touch of black satin about it.

Rose in its innumerable shades is so insistent both in millinery and in dressmaking that the chances are we shall be tired of the color before the season is past, but there is no denying the charm of the new rose shades.

A certain vivid green suggestive of lush spring grass is receiving attention in Paris and appears to be among some of the loveliest materials. Striking it is of course for dress purposes, yet it is so lovely and not so crude as it sounds, and we have seen two models in this color toned down by white or cream which were exceedingly good looking.

One was of a fine silken stuff on the order of marquisette and was made over white and trimmed with an embroidered net of self-color with gold threads through it. The other was a meteor cloth embroidered in self-color and with sleeves and most of the bodice in green net over fine white net.

The mention of meteor cloth brings us around once more to that fascinating theme of the silk and wool materials. We have spoken of some of these lovely materials particularly suitable for tailoring, but the list of new fine soft stuffs in silk and wool is almost endless and it is difficult to tell the boundary line between the all silk and the silk and wool fabrics.

Josephine cloth is one of the very lustre, very soft, very light silk and wool stuffs much liked for dressy gowns, and the meteor cloth is another of these materials bearing a close resemblance to the popular silk cashmere.

This last material, cashmere de soie, has not the high satin finish seen upon so many of the new fabrics, but has all the more distinction on that account and is of wonderful softness and suppleness. It is a mistake to buy it save in excellent quality, for it does wrinkle and this failing is more pronounced in the cheaper grades while disappearing in the best quality.

The yellows and those light yellow brown tones for which no two authorities furnish the same names, but which are reminiscent of beige, champagne, peach, ashes of roses, apricot and other lovely tints, though corresponding to no one of them, have much prominence among high class fabrics and in the linens, cottons, etc., as well.

Radium foulards with one of the shades of this color for ground and with small white designs are charming and a relief from the familiar blue and rose and green, and all of the beautiful soft one tone silks are to be found in these colorings.

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